

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-7 (Canceled)

Claim 8 (Original): A spray pattern generated by a fuel injector having a fuel inlet, a fuel outlet, a fuel passageway extending from the fuel inlet to the fuel outlet along a longitudinal axis, a body, a needle slidably disposed within the body, a seat disposed at the fuel outlet, the seat having a plurality of passages, each of the plurality of passages having a central axis having an angle of inclination relative to the longitudinal axis, the spray pattern comprising:

a fan shape; and
at least one plume adjacent the fan shape.

Claim 9 (Original): The spray pattern according to claim 8, wherein the fan shape corresponds to the number of inclined passages.

Claim 10 (Original): The spray pattern according to claim 8, wherein the fan shape corresponds to a cross-section of each of the plurality of inclined passages.

Claim 11 (Original): The spray pattern according to claim 8, wherein the fan shape corresponds to the angle of inclination of each of the plurality of inclined passages.

Claim 12 (Original): The spray pattern according to claim 8, wherein the fan shape corresponds to a distance of each of the plurality of inclined passages from the longitudinal axis.

Claim 13 (Original): A method of generating a spray pattern from a fuel injector in a direct injection application, the fuel injector having a body, a longitudinal axis, a needle slidably disposed within the body, and a seat disposed at the fuel outlet, the method comprising the steps of:

providing the seat with a plurality of passages, each of the plurality of passages having a central axis having an angle of inclination relative to the longitudinal axis; and
supplying fuel to the fuel injector so that a spray pattern is formed.

Claim 14 (Original): The method according to claim 13, wherein the spray pattern has a fan shape, the fan shape corresponds to the number of inclined passages.

Claim 15 (Original): The method according to claim 13, wherein the spray pattern has a fan shape, the fan shape corresponds to a cross-section of each of the plurality of inclined passages.

Claim 16 (Original): The method according to claim 13, wherein the spray pattern has a fan shape, the fan shape corresponds to the angle of inclination of each of the plurality of inclined passages.

Claim 17 (Original): The method according to claim 13, wherein the spray pattern has a fan shape, the fan shape corresponds to a distance of each of the plurality of inclined passages from the longitudinal axis.

Claim 18 (Original): The method according to claim 13, the spray pattern has a fan shape, the fan shaped spray pattern has a plurality of plumes.

Claim 19 (Original): The method according to claim 13, wherein at least one of the plurality of passages is at a different distance from the longitudinal axis than the other passages.

Claim 20 (Original): The method according to claim 13, wherein at least one of the plurality of passages is at a same distance from the longitudinal axis as the other passages.

Claim 21 (Original): The method according to claim 13, wherein at least one of the plurality of passages has a same cross-section as the other passages.

Claim 22 (Original): The method according to claim 13, wherein at least one of the plurality of passages has a different cross-section than the other passages.

Claim 23 (Original): The method according to claim 13, wherein the angle of inclination for at least one of the plurality of passages is the same as the other passages.

Claim 24 (Original): The method according to claim 13, wherein the angle of inclination for at least one of the plurality of passages is different than the other passages.